

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3571

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SUBJECT: UNIDROIT: MEETING OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

1. IN LETTER DATED FEBRUARY 26 RECEIVED BY ACTION OFFICE TODAY, SECRETARY GENERAL INFORMS US THAT "AFTER CONSULTING SECRETARIAT OF UNIDROIT, CHAIRMAN OF FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE INSTITUTE HAS DECIDED TO CONVENE COMMITTEE ON MARCH 8." PURPOSE OF MEETING WILL BE TO CONSIDER TWO ITEMS RELATING TO ARTICLE 16 OF THE STATUTE.

A. PROPOSAL TO BE MADE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR THE DETERMINATION OF THE UNIT OF CONTRIBUTION OF MEMBER-STATES FOR YEARS 1975, 1976 AND 1977.

B. PROPOSAL TO BE MADE TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY WITH A VIEW TO A REVISION OF THE CLASSIFICATION OF THE MEMBER STATES INTO CATEGORIES FOR THE DETERMINATION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE YEARS 1975, 1976 AND 1977.

2. COLLATERAL MATERIALS RECEIVED RELATING TO MARCH 8 MEETING INCLUDE A) REPORT OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO THE FINANCE COMMITTEE; B) BUDGET FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 1975; C) CHART OF THE ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS OF MEMBER STATES (1975-1977); D) PROVISIONAL TABLE OF MISSION EXPENSES FOR 1975; E) NEW SALARIES OF CATEGORY A STAFF FOR 1975; F) NEW SALARIES OF CATEGORY B AND C
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STAFF FOR 1975; G) RETIREMENT ALLOWANCES FOR CATEGORIES B AND

C STAFF SERVING ON 12/31/74; H) DRAFTING OF A PROPOSAL TO REVISE THE CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBER STATES IN CATEGORIES FOR THE PURPOSE OF CALCULATING TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS. ABOVE MATERIALS ARE BEING POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT.

3. INITIAL PERUSAL OF FOREGOING MATERIALS DISCLOSES FOLLOWING SIGNIFICANT POINTS AS REGARDS TWO PROPOSALS:

A) 1975 BUDGET ESTIMATE REPRESENTS 17.24 PERCENT INCREASE OVER 1974.

B) BUDGET ESTIMATES FOR 1976 AND 1977 CARRY CONSECUTIVE ANNUAL INCREASES OF 8 PERCENT WITH RESPECT TO 1975.

C) IN CONSEQUENCE OF A) AND B), UNIT CONTRIBUTIONS FOR MEMBER STATES WOULD BE SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT FOR EACH YEAR UNDER CONSIDERATION.

D) CONTRIBUTION OF ITALIAN GOVERNMENT (HITHERTO FIXED AT 60 MILLION LIRE ANNUALLY) WOULD RISE IN THE 1975-77 PERIOD IN SIMILAR PROPORTION TO THOSE PAID BY OTHER MEMBER STATES.

E) CALCULATIONS OF MEMBER STATES OTHER THAN ITALY HAS BEEN CALCULATED AT RATE OF 200 LIRE PER SWISS FRANC.

F) CITING ARTICLES 2, 3, AND 4 OF ARTICLE 16 OF UNIDROIT STATUTE, DOCUMENT ENTITLED COMMUNICATION FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE SUBMITTED TO 23RD SESSION OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY, AND PRACTICE FOLLOWED BY FINANCE COMMITTEE OF PEGGING CONTRIBUTION RATES OF NEW MEMBERS TO UN SCALE, FINANCE COMMITTEE IS REQUESTED TO FORMULATE PROPOSAL TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY WITH ABOVE CRITERIA IN MIND.

G) ON SUPPOSITION THAT PRESENT CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM REMAINS UNCHANGED, USG CONTRIBUTION WOULD RISE FROM 51,750 SWISS FRANCS AT PRESENT TO 59,500 IN 1975, 64,250 IN 1976 AND 69,500 IN 1977.

H) UNDER PROPOSED CLASSIFICATION REVISION (POINT F) ABOVE), USG CONTRIBUTION WOULD INCREASE TO 25 PERCENT OF ANNUAL BUDGET.

4. CHAIRMAN OF FINANCE COMMITTEE (GRANIER OF FRENCH EMBASSY) CALLED US TODAY TO SAY THAT, IN FACT, IT WAS UNIDROIT SECRETARIAT UNCLASSIFIED

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WHICH PROPOSED MEETING OF FINANCE COMMITTEE TO WHICH HE AGREED RELUCTANTLY IN VIEW OF OBVIOUS IMPOSSIBILITY OF RECEIVING TIMELY INSTRUCTIONS FROM MEMBER GOVERNMENTS. GRANIER ALSO TOOK OCCASION TO INDICATE DISSATISFACTION (UNSPECIFIED) WITH UNIDROIT FINANCING AND EXPENDITURES AND SUGGESTED "SUB-GROUP" MEETING OF 4 OR 5 CONTRIBUTING STATES FOLLOWING FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING TO DEVELOP COORDINATED REACTION TO SECRETARIAT PROPOSALS.

5. /ACTION REQUESTED/: PLEASE PROVIDE ASAP INSTRUCTIONS,
IF ANY, FOR EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE TO MARCH 8 FINANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING AS WELL AS ADVICE ON GRANIER'S PROPOSAL FOR SUB-
COMMITTEE MEETING.VOLPE

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